

**REMARKS**

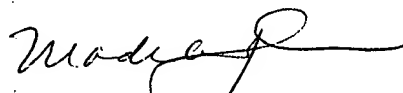
Claims 4-6 and 13-17 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 7-12 and 18-22 are now pending. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration and allowance of this application is requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 299002032411. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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